

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Tom Quinn
Forest Supervisor
Attn: Travel Management Team
631 Coyote Street
Nevada City, CA. 95959

Subject:

Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Tahoe National

Forest Motorized Travel Management Plan, Nevada, Placer, Plumas,

Sierra and Yuba Counties, CA (CEQ# 20100052)

Dear Mr. Quinn:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA provided comments on the original Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on December 24, 2008. We rated the DEIS as Environmental Concerns – Insufficient Information (EC-2) due to our concerns regarding the scope of the travel management planning process, timely achievement of the Lake Tahoe and Squaw Creek Total Maximum Daily Load requirements, the continued use of roads and trails in areas containing Naturally Occurring Asbestos, and potential impacts to water quality, meadows, and riparian areas. We also advised that additional information was needed to fully describe monitoring and enforcement commitments.

Based on our review of the SDEIS, we continue to have the concerns expressed in our comments on the DEIS; therefore, we are rating the SDEIS as Environmental Concerns- Insufficient Information (EC-2). For your reference, we are enclosing a copy of our DEIS comments. We have not identified any additional concerns with regard to the changes made in the SDEIS.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this SDEIS. When the FEIS is released for public review, please send one hard copy and one CD to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 972-3521, or contact Stephanie Skophammer, the lead reviewer for this project. Stephanie can be reached at (415) 972-3098 or skophammer.stephanie@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Goforth, Manager Environmental Review Office

Communities and Ecosystems Division

Enclosed: Detailed Comments

cc: David Arrasmith, Forest Planner, Tahoe National Forest Steve Thompson, California Operations, US Fish and Wildlife Service Carolyn Suer and Carl Brown, California Air Resources Board